



Bridger Bugler

F O R T B R I D G E R S T A T E H I S T O R I C S I T E

Superintendent's Desk



Fort Bridger State
Historic Site
Superintendent
Linley Mayer

The Fort Bridger State Historic Site is pleased to present its first quarterly newsletter. We hope to share with you some stories about the fort's past, let you know what is going on in the present, and what is to come in our future.

In the spirit of sharing our present and future, I thank everyone who celebrated a Victorian Christmas and helped us give back to the community through donations to the Bridger Valley Food Pantry. I also encourage everyone to start the New Year off right by participating in a nationwide First Day Hike. At Fort Bridger, we will start at 1pm on January 1 and walk 1 mile with refreshments to follow.

I am excited about all of the events we have to offer in 2020, including a new event on July 18 called Hands-On History. Site admission will still be collected, but you will be able to experience all of the fort's history by participating in the activities of our ancestors with quilting, canvas tents, tomahawk throwing, rope making, and much more.

Keep your eyes and ears open at Bridger Valley businesses, newspapers, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and the fort's website to discover all that we will have to offer. To receive a mailed or emailed copy of this newsletter stop by the fort, call, or email me at linley.mayer@wyo.gov.

Dispatch from the District

Season's Greetings from Rock Springs! It's great to hear the sound of the Bridger Bugle from 75 miles away. In the second half of the 19th century, the U.S. Army at Fort Bridger used the bugle to relay messages to soldiers throughout the day, from before sunrise (First Call) until after dark (Tattoo, and then Taps). Soldiers learned the sounds of the different bugle calls and would react accordingly, which could include assembling at a designated location, returning from fatigue duty, or heading to the mess hall for a meal.

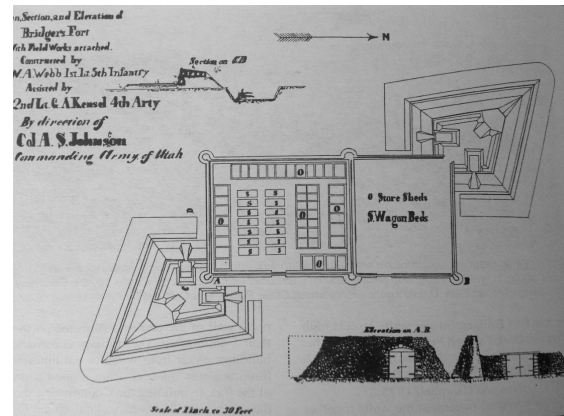
In a similar way, this instrument, the new Bridger Bugler, is a great way for you to learn about activities at the Fort. Whether it's programs and events, new exhibits, or various improvements and accomplishments around the site, the Bugler will keep you up to date. Our mission in Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails is to improve communities and enrich lives, and this newsletter will help show the many ways we do just that.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,
Chris Floyd, Manager
Shoshone District

A POINT IN TIME

BY: MARTIN LAMMERS

One man to have accompanied the Army to Fort Bridger was William Porter Finlay. A native of Ireland, Finlay had been to South Africa, the Australian gold fields, and back to Ireland and England before coming to the United States in 1857. Finlay gravitated westward where he gained employment as a civilian attached to the 10th U.S. Infantry during the “Utah Expedition”. While traveling with the Army, Finlay enlisted for six months in Lt. Col. Barnard Bee’s volunteer infantry, quickly being appointed Sergeant-Major. Having arrived at Fort Bridger in November, Finlay soon began sending dispatches from Camp Scott to the short-lived St. Louis Leader describing his recent experiences. Finlay was on hand for the initial military occupation of Fort Bridger; and what follows is a short excerpt taken from a dispatch describing two of the U.S. Army’s first fortification features.



Lieutenants Webb and Kensel's official drawing of the 'Mormon Compound' with the attache lunettes. Fort Bridger State Historic Site Collection

“Dec 6 – I went down yesterday to Fort Bridger to see the flanking defenses..., and was agreeably surprised at the pretty little works which have been thrown up under the superintendence of Lieut. Webb, 5th Infantry, and Lieut. Kinsale [sic], 4th Artillery. On two opposite angles of the square formed... by mud and stone walls, two lunettes are constructed, each mounting three guns, one in each flank and one en barbette at the salient angle, having a command over the surrounding country, or plane site, of about eight and a half feet, and a relief of about thirteen feet. They were unable to give the ditch a greater depth than four and a half feet, on account of water.... Much praise is due to the officers who have constructed these works, as they have been obliged to teach the workmen everything, showing them how to make fascines, gabions, &c., the manner of forming the slopes, ramps, earthen [sic] platforms for the guns, and, in fact, everything, as there was no regular sapper to be had....”

William Porter Finlay was discharged in April, 1858, and his later whereabouts are unknown.

*This excerpt was taken from “‘Too Fond of Fighting’ Selected Excerpts from Sergeant-Major William Porter Finlay’s Dispatches to the Saint Louis Leader from the Utah Expedition’s Battalion of U.S. Volunteers”; published by the Arthur H. Clark Company, an imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press, 2008.

Aunt Agony's Advice

Advice for men and women in the Victorian era (1837-1901) taken from *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette*.

Whom to Marry: When you are young it can be difficult to choose a suitable wife or husband so if you are having difficulties adhere to the following conditions. Marry someone whom you have known long enough to assume their worth, whether first hand or by reputation. Always marry someone of the same social status as you. If you are a lady and the gentleman is beneath you in status, DO NOT choose to marry him, as it is hard to look up to and love someone whom you have the feeling of looking down upon.

- If you have bright red hair and a pallid complexion, you should marry someone with jet black hair or a brunette.
- If your eyes are a very distinct color, you should marry someone with a decidedly different color.
- If your hair is curly, marry someone with straight hair
- If your temperament is of the very nervous or anxious, you should marry someone of a calm and stable stature.



Hill, Thomas E. *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette*. California: Bluewood Books, 1994.

Calendar

January

January 1– First Day Hike

1pm– Free

Take in history, scenery, and make new friends as you walk one mile around the site with refreshments to follow.

April

April 11– Easter Egg Hunt

10am– Free

Take your pictures with a silly bunny and hunt for eggs. Sponsored by the Mountain View Lion's Club.

May

May 1– Summer Season Begins

Open Daily 9-5- \$3 per resident, \$5 per non-resident, 17 and under free.

All of the historic buildings open and costumed staff explain the history of the fort. Starting June 1, take a guided sneak-peak into the rooms of several buildings at the fort to get a true feel for the buildings and what life was like in the mid-to-late eighteen hundreds.

May

May 25– Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony

8am– Free for the Ceremony

We remember those who lost their lives serving our country through a Flag Raising Ceremony conducted at the flag pole by volunteers from the American Legion and VFW. The ceremony includes a 21-gun salute and taps.

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**Improving Communities
and
Enriching Lives**



Fort Bridger's mission is to protect, preserve, and promote Fort Bridger State Historic Site while providing educational and interpretive opportunities for the citizens of Wyoming and visitors from around the nation and the world.



Become a Member

Become a Fort Bridger Historical Association or
Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association member today!



Fort Bridger Historical Association Mission:

The Fort Bridger Historical Association is a non-profit organization whose function is to promote, support, and preserve the Fort Bridger State Historic Site.

Yearly membership is \$50 and includes a membership in the Wyoming State Historical Society.

For more information or to join call 307-782-3842 or e-mail FBHA1843@gmail.com

Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association Mis-

The Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association is a non-profit organization to promote, educate, and re-live the history, culture and life ways of the Fur Trade Era of the American West 1790-1840.

Yearly membership is \$20.

For more information or to join visit fortbridgerrendezvous.net, call 801-635-4038, or e-mail FBRAINCA@hotmail.com